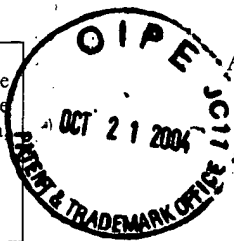


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 18, 2004.
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Attorney Docket No. CISC787

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David A. Hillard et al.

Application No.: 09/584,237

Filed: May 31, 2000

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
OPTIMIZED ROUTING AND PROTECTION
OF VT TRAFFIC IN SONET NETWORKS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Examiner: Shick C. Hom

Group Art Unit: 2666

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BEFORE MAILING DATE OF EITHER A
FINAL ACTION OR NOTICE OF
ALLOWANCE (37 CFR 1.97(c))

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO/SB/08A, a copy of which is attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, or after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, whichever event occurred last, but it is believed, before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under §1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

Accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement is the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c).

If it is determined that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-1652 (Order No. CISC787).

10/22/2004 HALI11 00000012 09584237

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180.00 DP

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Su

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/584,237
Filing Date	May 31, 2000
First Named Inventor	David A. Hillard
Art Unit	2666
Examiner Name	Shick C. Horn
Attorney Docket Number	CISCP787

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-3,674,936	07-1972	Wolfe	
	AB	US-5,923,646	07-1999	Mandhyan	
	AC	US-6,249,510	06-2001	Thompson	
	AD	US-6,765,880	07-20-2004	Hillard et al.	
	AE	US-			
	AF	US-			
	AG	US-			
	AH	US-			
	AI	US-			
	AJ	US-			
	AK	US-			
	AL	US-			
	AM	US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
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	BA							<input type="checkbox"/>
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Signature

Date
Considered

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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